

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EURE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 EB-07

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 /104 W

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P R 231640Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2249

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10641

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TAGS: PFOR, EEC, ECIN, XF, IT.

SUBJECT: US/EC CONSULTATIONS; EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE; ROME MEETING OF EXPERTS.

REF DUBLIN 1056

SUMMARY: THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EURO-ARAB "STEERING COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS" APPEARS TO HAVE SURMOUNTED A POLITICAL MINI-CRISIS, AND IS FAIRLY LAUNCHED INTO DEVELOPING SPECIFIC WORK PROGRAMS.

END SUMMARY

1. REPERCUSSIONS, AMONG ARAB STATES, FROM THE JULY 10 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION ON ARAB VIOLENCE IN JERUSALEM PUT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EURO-ARAB "STEERING COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS" IN JEOPARDY

FOR SOME DAYS PRIOR TO ITS OPENING IN ROME ON JULY 22. FAST AND INTENSIVE BEHIND THE SCENES NEGOTIATIONS, NOTABLY INVOLVING THE ITALIAN HOSTS, PUT THE MEETING BACK ON TRACK VIA AGREED AND ACCEPTED FORMULATIONS ON

THE SUBJECT IN OPENING SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS. WITH THE POLITICAL CRUNCH BEHIND, THE "STEERING COMMITTEE" BROKE INTO SIX WORKING GROUPS PER (REFTEL) WHICH HAVE SETTLED DOWN TO ORGANIZING FUTURE WORK PROGRAMS. THE SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR ADJOURNMENT JULY 24 AND LIKELY WILL NOT RECONVENE UNTIL PERHAPS NOVEMBER.

2. ACCORDING TO FONMIN SOURCES, ARAB DELEGATIONS ARRIVING IN ROME OVER THE LAST WEEKEND WERE STILL DISGRUNTLED OVER THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS CENSURE OF THE PLO. AS EARLY AS JULY 16 THE ARAB LEAGUE INQUIRED IN CAIRO AS TO WHETHER THE SUBJECT

WOULD BE RAISED BY THE EUROPEAN SIDE IN THE DIALOGUE, TO WHICH THE GOI AMBASSADOR RESPONDED ON INSTRUCTIONS WITH A FAST, FIRM NEGATIVE. REPORTEDLY THE MAHGREG COUNTRIES, ADDITIONALLY IRRITATED BY THE SLOW PACE OF THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC, CONSIDERED AN INITIATIVE TO CANCEL OR PUT OFF THE EXPERTS MEETING, BUT STARTED TOO

LATE. HOWEVER, THE "PREVAILING SENTIMENT" ON BOTH SIDES WAS TO PROCEED,
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ESPECIALLY SINCE TO DELAY OR EMBITTER THE DIALOGUE "WOULD HAVE SUITED ISREALI OBJECTIVES".

3. SINCE ARABS FELT UNABLE PUBLICALLY TO IGNORE EUROPARLIAMENTS REPROOF, PROBLEM BECAME ONE OF FINDING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMULATIONS FOR SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS OF EACH SIDE AT OPENING SESSION.

HEART OF

RELEVANT STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF ARAB DELEGATION (DAJANI, JORDAN)

WAS

"THIS WILL(FOR EURO-ARAB COOPERATION) HAS BEEN PROVEN STRONGER
THAN THE ATTEMPT OF SOME FORCES TO OBSTRUCT THE
DIALOGUE. IN THE SHORT PERIOD OF TIME (OF) THE TWO
MEETINGS ACTIVE ATTEMPTS WERE DIRECTED AT EUROPE AND MANAGED
TO CAST SOME SHADOWS ON THE DIALOGUE. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT
WE REFER TO THE DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON 16
JULY 1975 WHICH DENOUNCED THE FEDAIYEEEN OPERATIONS IN
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM AND WHICH RECORDED ITS GRAVE CONCERN
OVER WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND CALLING
UPON THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO EXPRESS ITS SENTIMENTS WITHIN
THE DIALOGUE. WHILE WE HAVE NOTICED THAT YOU HAVE NOT
RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S DECISION
AND THAT YOU HAVE REAFFIRMED YOUR POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS
CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE, AND WHILST WE ARE AWARE OF
THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THIS DECISION, YET WE FEEL
DUTY-BOUND TO SAY FRANKLY THAT THIS DECISION BY ITSELF AND
AND IN ITS TIME CONTEXT HAS CAUSED DISMAY AMONGST THE
ARAB PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLES OF THE THIRD WORLD FOR IT
SIGNIFIED A DESIRE ON THE PART OF SOME CIRCLES TO PREJUDICE
EUROPEAN ARAB RELATIONS."

4. CHAIRMAN OF EUROPEAN DELEGATION (AMB. REGARD, ITALY) MADE POLITE
SUCCINCT REPLY, REITERATING THAT NINE REPUDIATE ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE
AND ADHERE TO THEIR NOVEMBER 1973 DECLARATION RE A PEACEFUL SETT-
LEMENT

IN ME. HE ENDED BY RECALLING THAT EUROPEAN DELEGATION COMPRISED ONLY
EXPERTS "TO CONSIDER IN DEPTH THE CONCRETE POSSIBILITIES OF EURO-
ARAB
COOPERATION."

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5. AS OF COB JULY 22, THREE ARAB DELEGATIONS HAD NOT ARRIVED. LIBYANS
HAD PLANNED ATTEND, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, BUT CHANGED THEIR
MINDS; WHILE
ALGERIANS AND IRAQIS WERE BELIEVED TO BE COMING.

6. PLO REPRESENTATIVES ARE IN ATTENDANCE BUT, ACCORDING TO THE
"DUBLIN FORMULA", NOT IDENTIFIED AS TO ORGANIZATION OR NATIONALITY.
EVERYONE, EXCEPT LOCAL PRESS, SEEMS BENDING OVER BACKWARDS TO RESPECT
THAT
FORMULA. HOW LONG IT WILL HOLD IS ANOTHER QUESTION SINCE ARABS
HAVE TOLD
ITALIANS "DIRECTLY BUT CONFIDENTIALLY" THAT THEY ARE STILL ANXIOUS
TO CONVENE THE GENERAL MIXED COMMISSION, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE
AFFIXING

NATIONAL LABLES. EUROPEAN SIDE SAID STILL DETERMINED TO AVOID THAT CUL-DE-SAC BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS.

7. THE WORKING GROUPS HAVE EACH NAMED TWO CO-CHAIRMEN AND TWO CO-RAPPORTEURS, AND ARE NOW DEVELOPING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OF WORK. A COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN NAMED COMPRISING THE CHAIRMAN OF EACH SIDE,
ALL WG CO-CHAIRMEN PLUS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL EL FARRA OF ARAB LEAGUE AND EC REP KLAUS MEYER.

8. COMMENT: GIVEN US INTEREST IN NOT SEEING ADDITIONAL STATUS OR PRESTIGE ATTRIBUTED TO PLO IN EURO-ARAB CONTEXT, BELIEVE EUROPEANS HANDLED MINI-CRISIS AS DEFTLY AS POSSIBLE. WHILE POLITICS COULD AGAIN INTERUDE, DEPENDING IN LARGE PART ON OUTSIDE DYNAMICS, THERE IS A FAIR CHANGE
THAT WORK WILL PROCEED LARGEY ON TECHNICAL LEVEL. VOLPE

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